

cross-sectional dimension perpendicular to said axial direction being larger than said predetermined wavelength, and wherein one or more of said cladding features are voids.

27. (Once Amended) A micro-structured optical fibre according to claim 26, wherein a part of or all of the core features have a cross-sectional dimension being larger than  $0.2 \mu\text{m}$ .

66. (Once Amended) An article comprising a micro-structured optical fibre for guiding light at an operating wavelength, said optical fibre having an axial direction and a cross section perpendicular to said axial direction, the optical fibre comprising: a core region having an effective refractive index  $N_{co}$  and being surrounded by a cladding region comprising a multiplicity of spaced apart cladding features being elongated in the axial direction and disposed in a first cladding material, the cladding features having a refractive index that differs from a refractive index of the first cladding material, the cladding region further comprising an inner cladding region surrounding the core region and an outer cladding region surrounding the inner cladding region, the inner cladding region having an effective refractive index  $N_i$  and the outer cladding region having an effective refractive index  $N_o$ , with  $N_i$  being larger than  $N_o$  at the operating wavelength, wherein the inner cladding region comprises the first cladding material and the cladding features disposed therein, the first cladding material thereby constituting an inner cladding material and the cladding features disposed in the first cladding material constituting a multiplicity of spaced apart inner cladding features.

101. (Twice amended) An article according to claim 66 or 79, wherein the refractive index of the core material is substantially identical to the refractive index of the inner cladding region material.

108. (Twice Amended) 108. An article according to claim 66, wherein the core has a diameter larger than  $2 \mu\text{m}$ .

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109. (Once Amended) An article according to claim 108, wherein the core diameter is in the interval from 2 to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , such as in the interval from 4 to 6  $\mu\text{m}$ .

*P<sup>6</sup>*

128. (Once Amended) An article according to claim 127, wherein said predetermined wavelength is in the range from about 0.3  $\mu\text{m}$  to 15  $\mu\text{m}$ .